

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Pending claims

Claims 1 to 265 are pending as filed.

Claims canceled and added

In the instant preliminary amendment, claims 8, 9, 12, 14 to 20, 26, 28 to 30, 32, 33, 35, 39, 43, 44, 46, 48 to 105, 107 to 125, 127, 129 to 150, 152 to 166, 168 to 196 and 198 to 258, are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 266 to 272 are added.

Accordingly, after entry of the instant amendment, claims 1 to 7, 10, 11, 13, 21 to 25, 27, 31, 34, 36 to 38, 40 to 42, 45, 47, 106, 126, 128, 151, 167, 197, and 259 to 272 will be pending and under consideration.

Support for the claim amendments

The specification sets forth an extensive description of the invention in the amended claims. For example, support for the amended claims can be found in the claims as filed. Support for polypeptides of the invention, and nucleic acids encoding them, lacking signal sequences, or having a heterologous signal sequence, or having a heterologous sequence, e.g., wherein the signal sequence can be derived from another laccase or a non-laccase (a heterologous) enzyme, can be found, inter alia, in the specification from page 13, line 12, to page 14, line 10; and from page 142, line 25, to page 145, line 20. Support for claims directed of synthetic forms of the nucleic acids and polypeptides of the invention can be found, inter alia, on page 43, lines 14 to 19; page 47, lines 31 to 32; and page 134, lines 28 to 29.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by the instant amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully aver that the all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. **564462012600**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By /Gregory P. Einhorn/
Gregory P. Einhorn

Registration No.: 38,440
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
direct dial 858 720 5133
general office 858 720 5100
fax direct 858 523 5933
fax office 858 720 5125
email geinhorn@mofo.com